

I claim:

1. A method for treating a cardiovascular disease in a mammal the method comprising the step of administering an effective amount of a botulinum toxin directly to a blood vessel of a mammal, thereby treating a cardiovascular disease.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the mammal is having or has had a cardiovascular procedure.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein treating the cardiovascular disease prevents restenosis.

4. The method of Claim 2 wherein the cardiovascular procedure is an arterial cardiovascular procedure.

5. The method of Claim 2 wherein the cardiovascular procedure is a coronary arterial cardiovascular procedure.

6. The method of Claim 2 wherein the cardiovascular procedure includes angioplasty.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the angioplasty does not include the step of inserting a stent into the blood vessel.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the administering includes the step of injecting the botulinum toxin into a wall of the blood vessel.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of administering is accomplished using a stent coated or impregnated with the botulinum toxin.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the botulinum toxin reduces or eliminates damage to a blood vessel.

5 11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the botulinum toxin reduces or eliminates damage to a blood vessel by dilating the blood vessel.

12. The method of Claim 10 wherein the botulinum toxin  
10 reduces or eliminates damage to a blood vessel by reducing or eliminating inflammation of the blood vessel.

13. The method of Claim 1 wherein the botulinum toxin is selected from the group consisting of botulinum toxin types A, B, C,  
15 D, E, F, G mixtures thereof and combinations thereof.

14. The method of Claim 1 wherein the botulinum toxin is botulinum toxin type A.

20 15. A method of preventing restenosis in a blood vessel in a mammal which may occur following a cardiovascular procedure, the method comprising the step of administering to a mammal an effective amount of a botulinum toxin thereby preventing restenosis in a blood vessel.

25 16. A method of preventing restenosis in a mammal by preventing damage in a blood vessel which may occur during or following a cardiovascular procedure, the method comprising the step of administering to a mammal an effective amount of a  
30 botulinum toxin thereby preventing damage in the blood vessel and preventing restenosis.

17. A method of preventing restenosis in a mammal by preventing inflammation in a blood vessel which may occur during or following a cardiovascular procedure, the method comprising the step of administering to a mammal an effective amount of a botulinum toxin thereby preventing inflammation in the blood vessel and preventing restenosis.

18. A method of preventing restenosis in a mammal by dilating a blood vessel proceeding or during a cardiovascular procedure, the method comprising the step of administering to a mammal an effective amount of a botulinum toxin thereby dilating the blood vessel and preventing restenosis.

19. A composition for use in a cardiovascular procedure comprising a stent with a botulinum toxin attached or imbedded therein.

20. The composition of Claim 19 wherein the botulinum toxin is botulinum toxin type A.